

8-31-98

FACT SHEET

INTERPRETATIVE AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO THE FINAL AIR TOXICS REGULATION FOR PULP AND PAPER PRODUCTION

TODAY'S ACTION...

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is amending the final rule to regulate emissions of air toxics from pulp and paper mills. Air toxics, which are also known as hazardous air pollutants, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health or environmental effects.
- ◆ The final rule was issued on April 15, 1998 as the air component of the Pulp and Paper Cluster Rules. This interpretive amendment clarifies EPA's original intent regarding the applicability of the 10 percent excess emissions allowance to control devices used to treat kraft pulp mill condensates.
- ◆ EPA expects this amendment to be of interest to kraft mill owners and operators subject to this rule and to State and local regulatory agencies with kraft pulp mills in their jurisdictions.
- ◆ The amendment will be effective upon publication in the Federal Register.

SUMMARY OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE EPA'S PULP AND PAPER AIR TOXICS RULE

- ◆ The amendment modifies the rule language to make it consistent with the intent expressed in the preamble to provide the 10 percent excess emissions allowance to steam stripping systems and to other in-process type condensate control devices complying with any of the available control options.
- ◆ This amendment will have no impact on the information collection burden estimates made previously for the final rule. The changes are interpretations of requirements and are not additional requirements.
- ◆ The Federal Register notice accompanying the amendment also provides guidance but no rule changes to clarify how the rule applies to different types of biological treatment units. Specifically, the guidance addresses biological treatment units that are part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System wastewater treatment plant versus in-process type biological treatment units (e.g., anaerobic reaction towers) dedicated to treating the regulated kraft pulp mill condensates.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. (Note that this list originally contained 189 pollutants, but EPA has subsequently removed the chemical caprolactam from the list.) On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industrial source categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of “major” sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution controls, known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).
- ◆ In its July 16, 1992 published list of industry groups to be regulated, EPA identified pulp and paper production as a major source of air toxics. The final air toxics rule for pulp and paper production was issued on April 15, 1998 as the air component of the Pulp and Paper Cluster Rules.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF EPA'S FINAL RULE TO REDUCE AIR TOXICS FROM PULP AND PAPER PRODUCTION

- ◆ EPA's final rule will reduce air toxics emissions by approximately 155,000 tons annually, representing a 60 percent reduction from current levels.

HOW DOES THE AMENDMENT PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO INDUSTRY?

- ◆ The amendment makes clear EPA's intent to extend the excess emissions allowance to kraft mills electing to use innovative technologies such as dedicated anaerobic biological reaction towers instead of steam strippers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- ◆ Interested parties can download the amendment from EPA's web site on the Internet under “recent actions” at the following address: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>). For further information about the amendment or the rule itself, contact Penny Lassiter of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5396.
- ◆ EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).